



# Reporter

Presented by:  
Milwaukee County EMS Council  
Public Information Committee

September 2010  
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Milwaukee County EMS Council  
Public Information Committee

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Milwaukee County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council- Public Information Committee is to effectively provide accurate information to the stakeholders, elected officials and the general public relative to the contributions of the Milwaukee County EMS System. The committee will accomplish this through education, community outreach and media relations.

## Milwaukee County Planning Emergency Shelter for People with Functional and Medical Needs



Submitted by *Laura Schnicke*

It has been well documented that in large-scale emergencies and disasters, people with disabilities and other special needs are disproportionately adversely affected. These individuals who generally live independent lives on a day-to-day basis may be particularly vulnerable in emergencies for many reasons, such as inability to understand or respond to information about the emergency, loss of care network, separation from assistive devices or equipment, and other factors.

When people must evacuate their homes in an emergency, community shelters often open to provide shelter to those who have nowhere else to go. Community shelters offer basic accommodations and first aid for the general population, but may not be equipped to provide the level of hands-on care that

people with special medical needs may require. Having a "Special Needs Shelter" equipped with necessary supplies and volunteers can help those who need a little extra assistance, and alleviate the strain on hospital resources that may otherwise be utilized if the special needs shelter did not exist.

Milwaukee County is committed to ensuring that emergency response planning incorporates the needs of all residents, including those with special medical and functional needs. Last year, Milwaukee County received grant funding from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) to plan and prepare the Milwaukee County Special Needs Emergency Shelter (MCSNES). Planning for the shelter involves identifying adequate locations, supplies, and staffing, defining the types of needs that can be accommodated at the shelter, collaborating with area partners who would assist if the shelter was utilized, and developing the policies and procedures under which the shelter would operate. Planning will take two years, and then the plans will be exercised to determine if any changes or enhancements must be made.

Community volunteers are a very important part of the Milwaukee County Special

Needs Emergency Shelter (MCSNES). The shelter will need volunteers from various backgrounds, and especially those with medical training or experience working with people with disabilities or other functional or medical needs. Anyone interested in becoming a registered volunteer with the MCSNES is asked to participate in a free, one-day training session to learn more about the shelter, and the roles and responsibilities of being a volunteer at the shelter.

To learn more about the Milwaukee County Special Needs Emergency Shelter please visit the website at <http://county.milwaukee.gov/MCSNES>. If you are interested in signing up for a volunteer training session please contact the project planner, Laura Schnicke at: (414) 289-6805 or [Laura.Schnicke@milwcnty.com](mailto:Laura.Schnicke@milwcnty.com).



## Calendar

### EMS Council Meeting

**Tuesday, September 21**  
(New Day)

Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Place:  
FMLH Conference Ctr.  
8700 Watertown Plank Rd.

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### Education Center

**\*52nd Paramedic Class**  
September 27, 2010  
First Day Classes

\* Paramedic Fall Refresher  
Classes  
September 13 thru  
December 20, 2010

\* Continuing Education Conf.  
October 13 and 14, 2010

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**Stars of Life Award**  
September 22, 2010  
Tundra Lodge Resort  
Green Bay WI

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**SERTAC Conference**  
September 24, 2010  
Country Springs Hotel  
Pewaukee WI

## EMS Providers Spotlighted In the November Reporter

Milwaukee Fire Dept.  
North Shore Fire Dept.



## EMS Providers in the Spotlight

### Hales Corners Fire Department

*Submitted by Chief Mike Jankowski*



*Driver Operator  
Jerry Grzesk*

It takes a certain kind of person to head toward danger, to run into burning buildings, and to come to the aid of those in their darkest hours.

The men and women who serve the Village of Hales Corners Fire Department as firefighters and EMTs pay tribute to Driver Operator Jerry Grzesk who has served the Village of Hales Corners Fire Department for the last forty (40) years. Jerry will be honored with a ceremony recognizing his commitment and work at the fire department.

"Firefighters don't do what they do to be recognized," Grzesk said. "Firefighting is built around tradition. We remember who went before us, who opened the door and led the way to where we are today." "If you work here, play here, live here or go to school here, all of us feel very safe. I know the firefighters are here to take care of us" said Jerry.

"Our commitment to public service and safety is second to none," Grzesk said. "The Hales Corners Fire Department has a very long and distinguished tradition of providing exemplary service." That tradition has included a close relationship with the Zone D fire departments consisting of Franklin, Greendale, Greenfield and Hales Corners. "It's a relationship that we've been proud of. The firefighters and paramedics do the job each and every day, and they do that job with courage, with skill and with grace. That comes from long hours of hard work and dedication, but it also comes from the heart."

"There's been a great deal of change in the fire service, but there's one thing that will never change," Grzesk said. "One thing is constant. It's the compassionate care that these firefighters give to our community and to our neighbors. It's the people that make the difference. We will not forget our mission and that is to bring the Village of Hales Corners Fire Department the best fire prevention, fire suppression and EMS that we can."

Even when times are tough, as municipalities across the region deal with the nation's economic downturn, the department is still determined to do its job. "In these days in particular the village is strapped for money and asking us to do more with less, it's an incredible group of people as they continue to step up and deliver," said Grzesk.

"This is a young person's job, and I am no longer a young person," said Grzesk. "I wish everyone well."

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Cutting Edge in Trauma" Conference September 24, 2010 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker for the conference is Lieutenant General (Dr.) Charles Green Surgeon General of the United States Air Force

Conference Location:  
Country Springs Hotel and Water Park  
2810 Golf Road – Pewaukee



Contact Robert Ramirez 414-777-0147, [roramere@fmlh.edu](mailto:roramere@fmlh.edu) for details.

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### Public Information Committee

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Look for us on the Web:  
[www.Milwaukee.gov/ems](http://www.Milwaukee.gov/ems)



## WAUWATOSA FIREFIGHTER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

*Submitted by Dep. Chief Jim Case*

Wauwatosa, WI – Wauwatosa Fire Department (WFD) Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Reid was presented with the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) National Firefighters Award on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Reid was selected from over 4,400 applicants that were submitted by local VFW posts to receive this individual award based on their contributions as a firefighter and military service. The award was presented by Wauwatosa VFW Post 6498 Commander Robert Jaworski and VFW District 5 Commander Bob George. According to Mr. Jaworski “this is a great honor presented to one of our local heroes”. This is an annual award presented to only person nationwide.

Rob has been a firefighter/paramedic with the WFD for 8 years and is an Acting Lieutenant and member of the Special Rescue Team. He recently retired as a Master Sergeant with 22 years of service in the Air Force Reserves with the 440<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. In 2005, Rob was activated and deployed to Kyrgyzstan to serve as Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Air Terminal Operations Center in support of the global war on terrorism.

“We are extremely proud to have Rob recognized for his contributions to the community and our country” said Fire Chief Dean Redman.



## Paramedic Education Opportunities

### Spinal Cord Injury Preceptorship

September 15, October 20, November 17, 2010

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FMLH – West Clinics Building

9200 W. Wisconsin Avenue

Register by calling 414-805-3666 or 800-272-3666 – class size is limited to 6 participants per session. There is no cost for this program.

Dr. Shekar Kurpad, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Director of the Spinal Cord Injury program at Froedtert Hospital and the Medical College of Wisconsin, is interested in educating the EMS on the Principles of SCI management, as well as stabilization and research. If interested in having him attend one of your department meetings, please contact Patty Haines, Physician Liaison at 262-650-1128 or [phaines@fmlh.edu](mailto:phaines@fmlh.edu)



## **KUDOS**

### **West Allis Fire Department Paramedics**



Assistant Chief Steve Bane received a copy of a City of West Allis Police Department Inner-Office Report written by West Allis Police Officer Jeffrey Zientek complimenting fire fighters T-2: A/Lt Brehm, EO Kirchner, FF C. Levenhagen, and FI Madden A-2: FF Fisher and FF McCarthy M-1 CT Schauz, FF Foley and FF Schaak on their professional behavior during a mutual call in May of this year.

Officer Zientek and his partner Officer Duerr were called to a residence to check on its occupant, as he had not been seen for several days. It became apparent that it was necessary to make entry into the apartment. The Fire Department was called in for assistance. Fire Department personnel assisted in the removal of the patient, which had to be done by climbing through the bathroom window of a second story apartment building and removing the bathroom door. Access to the patient was made difficult due to the over abundance of possessions of the patient. Upon entry through the window they found that the patient was on the floor pinned under a toilet. ...”WAFD personnel began to free the patient and were able to pull him out into the hallway/living room of the apartment. Rescue personnel began assessing the patient and speaking to him about any medical issues.

While speaking and medically assessing the male for about 10-15 minutes, the patient went unconscious and coded. WAFD personnel immediately called for a Med Unit and began treating this patient. Med Unit #1 responded and they had to remove the party from his apartment into the hallway of the building due to the confined space in the apartment/size of the patient. All WAFD personnel worked tirelessly to revive the patient, but the outcome was his pronounced death after 45 minutes of CPR.

I do not have the names of each WAFD personnel that were at this incident, but would like to take the time and notify you of their professionalism and hard work in trying to save a life. It is far too often that we (Police & Fire) do not show gratitude to each other for the performance of our respected duties. Could you please notify the Fire Chief so he could acknowledge these men for their performance & professionalism during this incident. Respectfully Submitted, Pto Jeffrey Zientek



*Submitted by: Kenneth Sternig, EMS Director*

Eleven administrators from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Resuscitation Outcome Consortium (ROC) administrators visited Medical College of Wisconsin-Emergency Medicine (MCW EM) and Milwaukee County EMS on July 22 in order to learn more about the Milwaukee County EMS (MC EMS) system and the many partnerships that support and make up MC EMS. The Medical College of Wisconsin-Department of Emergency Medicine was selected as one of ten research sites in the United States and Canada focusing on studying efforts to improve resuscitation of patients. MCW EM was first selected as one of the ROC sites five years ago. The NIH recently renewed MCW as a ROC site for a new six year period.

Many EMS stakeholders were invited to the two day NIH-ROC site visit. Participants included County Board Supervisor and Chairman of the EMS Council Mark Borkowski, Director of County Health Programs John Chianelli; several Medical College representatives including the dean, directors of the institutional review boards for research, chairman of the Department of Medicine, research staff; representatives from the hospital association; several fire department chiefs and EMS providers were present as well as faculty and management staff from MC EMS.

During the site visit, EMS stakeholders shared how they interact to assure quality care is provided to those who work and live within Milwaukee County. Initial feedback from the NIH-ROC visitors was very positive. They were impressed with the commitment to provide quality out of hospital care and to participate in research as part of the many efforts to improve patient care through evidence-based medicine. The excellent collaboration between MCW and MC EMS was displayed during the meeting and further demonstrated the commitment to provide quality care that is evident in our EMS system.



Effective 5/18/2010

**Milwaukee County EMS**  
 9501 W. Watertown Plank Road  
 Milwaukee WI 53226

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>EMS MAIN NO.</b>	<b>257-6661</b>
<b>INCIDENT HOT LINE</b>	<b>257-6660</b>
Mike Bechtel	257-5091
Eugene Chin	257-7790
Storeroom	257-5091
Rosie Forster	257-6663
Becky Funk	257-6604
Nicole Gonzalez	257-7796
Gail Jacobsen	257-5870
Ann Johnson	257-6229
Kim Krueger	257-7613
Cheryl Kuhn	257-5814
Operation Mgr.	257-6662
Lauryl Pukansky	257-6733
Marty Rukavina	257-5811
Janis Spitzer	257-6661
Kenneth Sternig	257-6492
Del Szewczuga	257-6736
EMS Admin. FAX	257-7919
Storeroom FAX	257-5831
Conference Room	257-5844
Dennis Francis	257-8102
Sonali Nair	257-5369

# First Sign of a Stroke - Dial 9-1-1

Stroke is the third-leading cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States. More than 700,000 new strokes are reported each year.

Fortunately, many of these strokes and much of the death and disability resulting from stroke can now be prevented. Over the past several years, scientists have developed new treatments that can reduce the number of stroke deaths and disabilities. The reality, though, is that few benefit from these new treatments because most have to be administered within the first few hours of stroke onset. In far too many cases, people do not recognize the signs and symptoms of stroke and arrive at the hospital too late to receive this treatment.

We are lucky to have access to cutting edge treatments for stroke. But to ensure that our system can do its work, we all must learn the signs of stroke and if we see them in ourselves or someone around us, make the decision to call **9-1-1**.

## Is it a stroke? Check these signs FAST:

**FACE** – Does the face look even? Ask them to smile.

**ARM** – Does one arm drift down? Ask them to raise both arms.

**SPEECH** – Does their speech sound strange? Ask them to repeat a phrase.

**TIME** – Every second, brain cells die. Call **9-1-1** at any sign of a stroke.

Learn these signs and our emergency medical technicians, paramedics and hospitals can help more people with stroke walk out of the hospital. They are doing their jobs. Now it is the time for all of us to do ours.

*Taken from "Taking Action for Heart Healthy and Stroke Free States: A Communication Guide for Policy and Environmental Change".*

**F**ace: Does the face look uneven? Ask them to smile.

**A**rm: Does one arm drift down? Ask them to raise both arms.

**S**peech: Does their speech sound strange? Ask them to repeat a phrase.

**T**ime: Every second, brain cells die. Call 9-1-1 at any sign of stroke.

**Is it a stroke? Check these signs FAST!**

**Call 9-1-1 at any sign of stroke.**

Great Lakes Regional Stroke Network  
www.glrn.org  
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## Take time to get a flu vaccine.

- CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.
- While there are many different flu viruses, the flu vaccine protects against the three viruses that research suggests will be most common.
- The 2010-2011 flu vaccine will protect against an influenza A H3N2 virus, an influenza B virus and the 2009 H1N1 virus that caused so much illness last season.
- Everyone 6 months of age and older should get vaccinated against the flu as soon as the 2010-2011 season vaccine is available.
- People at high risk of serious flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and people 65 years and older.
- Vaccination of high risk persons is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.
- Vaccination also is important for health care workers, and other people who live with or care for high risk people to keep from spreading flu to high risk people.
- Children younger than 6 months are at high risk of serious flu illness, but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for them should be vaccinated instead.

**THE FLU ENDS WITH U**

[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

## My Crisis Records

Submitted by: *Gerald A. Theis, LCSW*



We need to do a better job of quickly and easily sharing vital medical information between the citizen, the EMT and the emergency room physicians involved during a medical emergency event. This is especially important for citizens with complex medical conditions, the elderly and those with disabilities. Citizens who have multiple care providers are more likely to have critical issues which need to be addressed urgently during a medical emergency. The fact remains:

- Persons, emergency responders and health care providers cannot easily communicate with each other during an emergency.
- Persons are typically under severe stress and trauma making it difficult to communicate their medical and or social needs when the situation demands it.
- Medical data is not easily available to the right people at the right time and in the right format.

It has been estimated that 60 to 70 percent of adverse events in healthcare occur due to poor communication and lack of medical information. This is unacceptable and this amount of adverse events would not be tolerated in other industries

Transporting a citizen to an emergency room is a serious situation that creates a lot of turmoil, anxiety and stress. Knowing that one's vital medical data will arrive to the ER before they do gives people a sense of security knowing that the doctor treating them is fully aware of their unique medical needs, what medicine they are taking and what allergies they have.

Emerging digital and mobile technology designed to allow first responders immediate access to one's vital medical information "at the scene" of the emergency is now available in our communities. This technology is secure, private, password protected, remote and interoperable, which means the data can be read on any computer anywhere anytime. What is even better is the emergency preparedness program is affordable and is completely owned by the person not a hospital or health care plan. Access to the private, non-commercial server is accessible 24/7 to manage and update one's personal health crisis record. This exchange of vital data will enhance efficiency, avoid medical errors, delays, paperwork and unnecessary medical expenses while keeping the citizen empowered during these vulnerable life events.

The local firm, Theis and Associates designed and launched a web-based tool that allows a person to fill out an online form with their relevant medical information needed during a personal medical emergency. Once this concise record is completed they print their emergency crisis card to keep in their possession. During an emergency the first responder can access their vital information by entering the persons ID number on the card. A digital remote device called, My Crisis Capsule™ is an optional feature that allows first responders to access the record once they insert the device in their computer. A wireless smart phone App is being built for Apple iphone users. When they call 911 to request a medical emergency response they will simply transmit the vital medical information directly from their iphone to the 911 dispatcher who can then forward the record to the dispatched EMT BEFORE they arrive on the scene.

For more information contact Theis and Associates at [www.MyCrisisRecords.com](http://www.MyCrisisRecords.com)



The next issue of the REPORTER will be distributed in November, 2010.  
Anyone having content for this issue is encouraged to submit the same to Janis Spitzer @ [janis.spitzer@milwcnty.com](mailto:janis.spitzer@milwcnty.com) no later than October 10, 2010.